

Revising a literary analysis

Directions: For all of the items below, briefly answer the question and REVISE (aka: fix it) when necessary in your paper. Also, the “essay guide” referred to below is titled “A Guide to the Literary Analysis Essay” and it is located on the “Macbeth Paper and Presentation” wiki page.

- **Title:** Does the title of your essay reveal the main idea in your paper?
- **Explain:**

- **Introduction:** Does the introductory paragraph name the author and the title of the text so that readers know exactly what work you are discussing? (Avoid opening sentences such as “In this story. . . .” See pages 1-2 of the essay guide for help.)
- **Write out your opening sentence:**

- **Thesis:** Does the introduction state and develop your thesis so that readers know where they will be going? Is your thesis clear, and does it state with precision your stance on the topic?
- **Write your thesis and explain why it does or doesn’t work:**

- **Organization:** How is the paper organized? Does the organizational structure make sense for the topic? Do you have clear paragraphs? Do you have clear topic sentences in each paragraph that clearly supports and connects back to your thesis (see page three in the essay guide)?
- **Write out the topic (first) sentence in each of your body paragraphs (beginning with the second paragraph):**

Paragraph #2

Paragraph #3

Paragraph #4

Paragraph #5

Paragraph #6

- **Quotations:** What evidence does each quotation (textual evidence) provide? Are they too long or too short? Do they actually support your thesis?
- **What does each of your quotations prove?:**

Quotation #1:

What paragraph # ?

What does it prove?

Do you explain the significance of this quotation immediately before or after the quotation in the essay? YES or NO (fix it if no)

Quotation #2:

What paragraph # ?

What does it prove?

Do you explain the significance of this quotation immediately before or after the quotation in the essay? YES or NO (fix it if no)

Quotation #3:

What paragraph # ?

What does it prove?

Do you explain the significance of this quotation immediately before or after the quotation in the essay? YES or NO (fix it if no)

- **Analysis vs. summary:** Is the essay chiefly devoted to analysis, not to summary? Summarize the plot only briefly and only to further your own ideas. A summary is not an essay!
- **Do you avoid summary:**

- **Verb tenses:** Have you used the present tense of verbs to describe both the author's work and the action in the work (for example, *Chopin shows* or *Mrs. Mallard dies*)? Look up 'literary present' if you are confused.
- **Explain:**

- **Conclusion:** Does the conclusion give a brief, general summary of the most important points in your paper? Does it end with the "So What" factor – explaining why your essay is important for understanding the text. See page four in the essay guide.
- **Explain:**

- **Are all your sources documented in MLA style? See pages 8-9 of the essay guide for help.**